

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2009

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, David Matthews and Kerry Speidel, CAFO present. Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom acknowledged those that were involved in the POP's Concert as well as the musical "Once on this Island" that was the week before at the High School. He said all those involved, teachers, parents, students etc. did a wonderful job and deserve a lot of credit for their hard work. Tom also congratulated the Lunenburg High School Girl's Track Team for 100 consecutive wins and said he was very impressed with the meet that was held Saturday.

Tom congratulated Paula on her being re-elected for another three years, Paula thanked everyone for their support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Emergency Preparedness Meeting (Mass Office on Disability)**
05/21/09 @ 3:00 PM, Thayer Public Library, 717 Main Street, Lancaster – the Mass Office on Disability in partnership with the Lancaster Commission on Disability is hosting a meeting to bring together people with disabilities & local emergency preparedness professionals. The purpose of the meeting is to explore how to ensure that people with disabilities have the assistance they need in times of emergency. They will learn about the emergency response resources & procedures within their local communities and the steps that can be taken personally to prepare for emergency situations. They will receive an "Emergency Go Pack" and the first responders will receive "Tips for First Responders, 3rd edition".
2. **American Legion Post, 283 Memorial Day Services, Sunday, May 24th @ 11:45 AM Veterans Park** - Chairman Tom Alonzo stated that he will attend the Memorial Day Service and invited the others to join him.

APPOINTMENTS

1. **7:10 PM - Gordon Edmonds, CEO Leominster Credit Union/Teen Center Donation** – Michael Sauvageau, member of the Board of Directors at the Leominster Credit Union introduced Gordon Edmonds, CEO and Julio Greco, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Credit Union. Gordon Edmonds, presented Michelle Belleza, Director of the Chester Mossman Teen Center with a \$3000.00 donation to the center. Michelle thanked everyone and said "that many kids benefit from what we offer, and I'm really humbled and grateful for everyone's support", and that the donation will allow the center to remain open through the summer.
2. **7:30 PM - One Day All Alcoholic Liquor License – 77 Island Road-** Christina Lynn McCormack was unanimously granted a one day all alcoholic liquor license for a Lakeside Luau to benefit the Jake Cannavino Memorial Trust.
3. **8:00 PM – State Representative Jennifer Benson** – Representative Benson came before the Selectmen to update them on the progress of the budget. She called the cuts to the state budget "devastating". Since the announcement in January of the governor's budget, more and more has been cut especially to local aid to the municipalities. With the increase of the sales tax to 6.25% much of the increase will be used to pay what's due on some large transportation related bonds that the state owes. Representative Benson also informed the Board of a bill she has written to put more teeth in the measures available to the Department of Public Utilities with regard to penalties for utility companies that are found to be inadequate in their emergency management skills. Currently the maximum fine is \$25,000 for each violation with a \$1 million cap. She would like to raise that to \$250,000 per violation per day with a cap of \$91 million. The bill would also speed up the process by which a third-party utility company may be called in an emergency, thus by-passing the Governor to obtain permission.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. **Re-organization** – the Board will remain the same, Tom Alonzo, Chair; Paula Bertram, Vice Chair; Steven M. deBettencourt, Clerk; and Thomas Mason and David Matthews, Members.
2. **Minutes** – *none signed*
Warrants- Warrant #63 09 (05/19/09) \$209,723.08 *signed*

Contracts- the Board unanimously approved Kerry's recommendation to extend the price of the initial contract (which is not to exceed \$42,000) to AECOM, formerly Earth Tech, for additional work at Meadow Woods Trailer Park. They are in under budget so there is enough money to cover this additional cost. Charlie Smith, Senior Project Manager was present and said that the company needs the extra time to complete seasonal work that could only be done in the spring.

Action File Issues – Tom brought to the Board's attention that someone has offered to donate a sign for the Ritter Building and suggested that they decide on a name. Kerry thought that it should be the Ritter Memorial Building and everyone was in agreement. They would like to see a few more samples to review before they decide.

3. CAFO Updates

Municipal Electric Aggregation – *tabled until June 2, 2009*

4. Pre-disaster Mitigation – *tabled until June 2, 2009*

5. FMLA Policy – *tabled until June 2, 2009* - Paula asked for clarification on whether the Salary Admin Plan supercedes the FMLA Policy.

6. Land Use Partnership Act Updates – Marion Benson, Planning Board Director came before the Selectmen concerning two zoning reform bills that were being heard at a public hearing in Boston. One bill is S783 filed by the Zoning Reform Working group also known as CPA II. Their membership is representative of many State Departments, American Planning Association and individual Planning Boards, Aldermen, Professors of Law etc. Their primary goal is to revise the law for consistency to Master Planning, revision of Section 6 of MGL 40A, impact and mitigation fees, grandfathering and local options. Their bill preserves the right of home rule. The other bill S765, known as LUPA has been filed by Attorney Greg Baeilicki, appointed by the Governor. Although the two bills are similar, S765 creates a two-tiered statutory regime by declaring that communities become a certified plan communities under the Regional Planning Commissions. The LUPA plan does not address Master Planning. LUPA takes away the rights of mitigation, makes unfavorable changes to subdivision plan freeze, creates a declaration of development intent, authorizes a more intense rate of growth. These measures are not favorable to small towns with strong Home Rule backgrounds. Marion stated that as Planning Board Director she opposes S765 and supports S783, and intends to make her opinion known at the public hearing.

7. CAFO Evaluation – *tabled until June 2, 2009* – Board to submit their evaluation and comments to Chair, Tom Alonzo before the next meeting and according to the Charter should meet with CAFO to go over their evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Debris Cleanup Update – Kerry said that the debris cleanup is now underway and that all residents should have their debris at the edge of the street, but not in the street. She also noted that the landfill closed to the public on May 15th.

2. Tennessee Gas Pipeline - John Gavin, Tennessee Gas Pipeline came before the Board to give an update on the progress they are making. He said the project is going well, all permits are in place and the projected time from start to finish is ten weeks. As they go along the landscapers will be restoring the property to what it was originally.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1. FY'10 APPOINTMENTS – 06/23/09 – the vacancies on the various Boards, Committees and Commissions will be announced at the June 2nd meeting. Anyone interested in volunteering to serve should fill out a talent bank form.

Being no further business the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda H. Douglas, Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen